

Appl. No. 10/823,917
Amdt. dated April 25, 2006
Reply to Office action of February 17, 2006

Remarks/Arguments

Claims 1-7, 16-18, 24 and 26-31 are pending. Claims 1-7, 24 and 26-28 are allowed.

Claims 16-17 and 29-30 stand rejected as anticipated by Wright under 35 U.S.C. 102(e). Claims 18 and 31 stand rejected as unpatentable over Wright under 35 U.S.C. 103(a). Reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and for the following reasons.

The prior art, as exemplified by the prior art cited by the Examiner and the patents listed in the Information Disclosure Statement submitted by applicant, provides numerous examples of golf putter heads that include resilient inserts. In all instances in the prior art, including the Wright Published Application cited by the Examiner, this resilient insert is positioned within the face of the putter head so that the golf ball is initially struck by the resilient insert. The purpose of the resilient insert is said to be for the purpose of improving the golfer's "feel" for the club. These prior art inserts are discussed in greater detail in applicant's specification at page 2, lines 1-13.

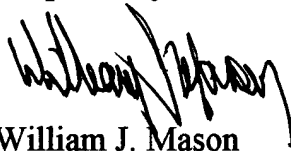
The cited Wright Published Application describes a putter head that has a front face with a recess and a resilient insert in the recess, with the insert extending to the lower edge of the front face. However, unlike the presently claimed invention the upper

edge of the resilient insert extends upwardly to form striking surface 110 which is used to initially strike the ball. See in particular paragraphs [0018], [0019], [0021], [0041] and [0042]. As specifically required by the claims, applicant's putter head is configured so that the ball will be initially struck by said non-resilient striking area and then by said resilient section.

Thus, the defined structure is the opposite of the cited structure, and is not in any way suggested by the cited prior art.

For the forgoing reasons, and in view of the amendments to the claims, it is believed that this application now defines a patentably distinguishable invention and is accordingly in condition for allowance. Such action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'William J. Mason', is written over the printed name.

William J. Mason
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